



## **Kevin Faulconer: California's governor isn't stepping up to the plate**

**May 27, 2009**



Taxpayers sent a clear message to state officials May 19 when they rejected Propositions 1A-1E. The one thing state leaders have failed to comprehend is that we are not just state taxpayers, we are county and city taxpayers as well. And while Sacramento is farther away than City Hall, that doesn't mean we aren't watching with a keen eye and a firm grip on our wallets.

Instead of making tough choices, the Governor has proposed "borrowing" \$36 million of the City's property tax revenues. Not only would taxpayers in San Diego be hit if the loan is made, they would be hit again when the State is forced to pay back the loan with interest. In the end, the State would be using taxpayer dollars to repay a taxpayer-funded loan.

Instead of the draconian cuts the Governor has proposed to various state programs, he can start where our Mayor and my City Council colleagues began: Reducing unsustainable pension and healthcare payments. We have asked City employees to make tough sacrifices, and there is no reason state employees shouldn't be asked to do the same. Structural reforms to these two systems will allow the programs threatened by state cuts to be preserved.

The State cannot continue to use Band-Aid budget solutions year after year that leave taxpayers with little hope for the future.

*Kevin Faulconer is a San Diego councilmember representing the second district.*